



*Michigan Pharmacists*

A S S O C I A T I O N

# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **DISCOUNTS ON PRESCRIPTIONS MAY NOT BE WORTH THE RISK**

In an effort to save money on prescription drugs, many patients around the country are taking advantage of promotional deals and special offers, as well as comparison shopping and purchasing medications from different sources. But these practices can be dangerous and can come at a price, negating any cost savings by putting patients' health at risk. Using the same pharmacy to purchase all of your prescriptions is the best way to ensure you make the most effective and safest use of your medications, and can even save you money in the long run.

Using one pharmacy helps to ensure that the pharmacist filling your prescription has a full and accurate view of your medication usage and history, whereas purchasing medications from more than one source puts you at risk. Your pharmacist can alert you to potential drug-drug, drug-food, drug-herbal and drug-disease interactions, which can help prevent illness caused by interacting medications, as well as increased costs for treating the resulting conditions.

Additionally, your pharmacist can help you by identifying cost-saving alternative drug choices and less expensive alternatives. The pharmacist knows what generic and combination drugs are available. As an integral part of your healthcare team, your pharmacist can communicate with your doctor to make sure you're being prescribed the most cost-effective and useful medications.

The most critical thing to remember in regards to medications is that purchasing medicine is not like purchasing clothing or groceries, and what seems like the cheapest way to go may not be the best. The information your pharmacist gives you along with your medication can be life-saving, and the services your pharmacist provides are more important than the cost of the prescription or receiving any type of discount. By helping you appropriately manage your medications and your disease state with screening, prevention and maintenance, your pharmacist can save you time and money. Using pharmacists as a resource, with time and participation from the patient, can help to enhance communication between healthcare professionals and helps keep you, the patient, healthier and save you money.

The Michigan Pharmacists Association, serving more than 3,000 pharmacy professionals, strives to be a leader in professional and scientific advancement by following its mission of encouraging and supporting its members as the professionals responsible for the delivery of patient-focused care.

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